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STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL

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**Ceremony Celebrates 1,300+ Exceptional  
New Jersey Public Employees**

**TRENTON, NJ**—Department of Personnel Commissioner Ida L. Castro hosted a celebration of New Jersey's public employees at the annual Public Service Recognition Awards Ceremony, Friday, May 7, at the Patriots Theatre, Trenton, NJ. The ceremony recognized more than 1,300 New Jersey public servants nominated by their co-workers and superiors for outstanding performance.

Held in conjunction with the national celebration of Public Service Recognition Week, the ceremony honored outstanding performance by public employees in the categories of heroism; longevity; co-worker recognition; exceptional service; professional achievement; community service; teamwork/partnership achievement; customer service excellent; and customer service excellence in County and Municipal government.

"Today, we honor those employees whose dedication, commitment and work ethic set the standard within our State," said Governor James E. McGreevey in a letter read at the ceremony. "As Governor, I offer my personal thanks and appreciation to all of the award recipients. You represent the very best in public service."

"Whether safeguarding our children, caring for our most vulnerable citizens, enhancing homeland security, protecting our environment, or providing any other service the citizens of New Jersey depend upon, no success can be achieved without a dedicated, skilled and motivated workforce," said Ida L. Castro, Commissioner of the Department of Personnel. "The recipients of this year's

awards are true examples of public servants going the extra mile in their work for New Jersey and its citizens.”

Kent Manahan, the nightly senior news anchor for the New Jersey Network (NJN), acted as Master of Ceremonies for the awards program. This year marked the debut of a new category for Customer Service Excellence in County and Municipal Government. This new category marks the first time that local government has been invited to participate in this program.

Diane Legreide, the Chief of Management and Operations in the Office of the Governor, attended the ceremony on behalf of the Governor. Ms. Legreide read a letter from the Governor, and co-presented both the Governor’s Office Longevity award and the awards for Heroism with Commissioner Castro.

“The accomplishments and dedication of all of the awardees is truly inspiring,” said Commissioner Castro. “From the Teamwork/Partnership Award that went to the team in Banking and Insurance who played a large role in attracting New Jersey’s first new auto insurer since 1996; to the Heroism Award that went to a Senior Corrections Officer who assisted a bus driver in evacuating children off of a burning bus; to the Community Service Award that went to a Department of Human Services Principal Clerk Transcriber for her tireless volunteering and her award from the State as the Foster Mother of the Year; there are so many amazing examples of what public employees bring to New Jersey.”

For further information about the Public Service Recognition Program, please visit the Department of Personnel’s website at [www.nj.gov/personnel](http://www.nj.gov/personnel).

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